

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064433

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, HO

SUBJECT: F-86 AIRCRAFT TRANSFER

REFS: A) STATE 059872; B) TEGUCIGALPA 1072;

C) SAN SALVADOR 1112

1. EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED PARA 4, REF (B) IN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT WITH INTENT REF (A). WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT NOTIFICATION OF GOES BY GOH PRIOR TO OUR OWN NOTIFICATION TO GOES WOULD PUT GOH INTENTIONS IN BETTER LIGHT. ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUEST THAT AMBASSADOR, IN ADVISING LOPEZ OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO APPROVE TRANSFER, MAKE ABOVE POINT AND OFFER REPEAT OFFER TO WITH- HOLD OUR ADVICE TO THE GOES FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD TO GIVE GOH TIME TO GET ITS NOTIFICATION IN FIRST. IF LOPEZ ACCEPTS, YOU SHOULD REQUEST HE NOTIFY YOU IMMEDIATELY FOL- LOWING NOTIFICATION TO GOES AND YOU THEN CAN NOTIFY EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR AND DEPT.

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2. WITH RESPECT TO QUOTE REASONABLE TIME UNQUOTE FOR NOTIFICATION, YOU SHOULD STRESS TO LOPEZ THE POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO THE USA IF GOES WERE TO LEARN FIRST OF THIS TRANSACTION OTHER THAN THROUGH DIRECT NOTIFICATION BY GOH OR USG. ON THIS BASIS YOU MIGHT WISH TO WORK OUT

WITH LOPEZ HOW LONG HE FEELS NOTIFICATION MIGHT TAKE, ASSUMING HE AGREES TO NEED FOR NOTIFICATION. GIVEN FACT THAT NEXT WEEK IS SEMANA SANTA AND POSSIBILITY OF LEAK OCCURRING IF GOH DOES NOT NOTIFY GOES UNTIL AFTER EASTER, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR GOH TO NOTIFY GOES IMMEDIATELY.

3. IN YOUR DISCUSSION WITH LOPEZ YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT UNDER U.S. LEGISLATION, MATERIEL WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO ONE COUNTRY UNDER FMS OR MAP CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY WITHOUT USG APPROVAL. AT THIS POINT, THE APPROVAL PROCESS REQUIRES: (A) OFFICIAL GOY REQUEST FOR USG CONCURRENCE IN PROPOSED TRANSFER; (B) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS (FOLLOWED BY CUSTOMARY 10-DAY WAITING PERIOD); (C) RECEIPT BY USG OF GOH ASSURANCES THAT AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY WITHOUT USG APPROVAL. WITH RESPECT TO (B) ABOVE, WE BELIEVE THAT CHANCES OF ADVERSE REACTION WITHIN CONGRESS WOULD BE REDUCED CONSIDERABLY IF WE WERE IN A POSITION TO ASSURE CONGRESS THAT GOH HAS NOTIFIED GOES OF INTENDED ACQUISITION AND HAS SOUGHT DEFUSE GOES REACTION BY EXPLAINING THAT IT IS RELATED TO CURRENT SITUATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. OUR NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OF IMPENDING TRANSFER WILL, OF COURSE, PLACE INFORMATION IN PUBLIC DOMAIN AND IN ABSENCE OF GOH OR USG NOTIFICATION OF GOES , COULD BRING ABOUT SITUATION DESCRIBED PRECEDING PARAGRAPH.

4. FOR SAN SALVADOR: INFO REQUESTED REF (C) AND PREVIOUS WILL BE PROVIDED SOONEST. HOWEVER, SUGGEST YOU CARRY THROUGH NOTIFICATION ACCORDING TO ABOVE INSTRUCTION AND FOLLOW-UP WITH TECHNICAL DETAILS LATER IN THE EVENT WE UNABLE TO PROVIDE REQUESTED INFO IN TIME. PACKAGE CONSISTS OF TEN F-86E AIRCRAFT AND ONE T-33 TRAINER WITH ASSOCIATED SPARE PARTS. INGERSOLL
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